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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Amclt A

Application Serial No.09/497,992
Filing Date2/4/2000
Inventorship Maller
Applicant Microsoft Corporation
Group Art Unit2143
Examiner Baugh
Attorney's Docket No.ms1-353us
Title: "Email Filtering Methods and Systems"

#5
T.D.
12/04/02

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED OCTOBER 9, 2002

RECEIVED

DEC 03 2002

Technology Center 2100

To: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Claims

Claims 1, 12, 19, 24, 34, 40, 42, 43, and 48 are amended.

Claims 1-52 are pending and are listed below as follows:

1. (Amended) An email filtering method comprising:
- defining at least one heuristic that determines whether an incoming email message likely constitutes unsolicited commercial email by considering an established pattern that such unsolicited commercial email typically exhibits when it is sent;
- applying said at least one heuristic to at least one email message that is received by a web server that comprises part of a web-based email system in